

Ilex Aquifolium have been known in cultivation for many years (e. g., var. *laurifolia* Hort.); the form of *I. opaca* in question appears to be analogous to them. Dr. Jones's observations show that it may become clearly segregated in the wild; since it is a striking variant and likely to attract attention, it is, perhaps, well that it should have a name. It may be called:

ILEX OPACA Ait., forma **subintegra** f. nov., foliis integris vel sparsissime spinoso-dentatis. Leaves entire or with a very few scattered spiny teeth.—On a knoll, in sandy loam among white oaks and birches, Mashpee, Mass., January 16, 1921, *L. C. Jones* (TYPE in Gray Herb.).

Specimens referable to this form have been seen from South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi; it is, no doubt, to be expected wherever the species occurs.—C. A. WEATHERBY, GRAY HERBARIUM.

THE AMERICAN VARIATIONS OF *SILENE ACAULIS*.—Practically a century ago that wonderfully keen student of the flora of Newfoundland and the adjacent regions, Bachelot de la Pylaie, had in preparation a very detailed *Flore de Terre-Neuve, St. Pierre et Miclou*, a work which, on account of his untimely death, was never published. The manuscript of this work is preserved at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris and in it la Pylaie proposed many American plants as new species or varieties,—plants which, naturally, have subsequently been detected and published by others. One of the novelties proposed by him was the plant which has generally passed in northeastern America as *Silene acaulis* L. La Pylaie, giving it a name which if now published would merely add to synonymy, distinguished it from true *S. acaulis* of Europe by “*floribus breviter pedunculatis, caespite vix emersis . . . capsulis calyce paulo longioribus*”; true *S. acaulis* having, as he said, “*les capsules . . . deux fois aussi longues que le calice*” and the peduncle usually equaling or exceeding the latter.

In this case, although la Pylaie thought he had a new variety, his plant was, as it now proves, identical with a generally recognized variety of arctic and alpine regions of Europe, var. *exscapa* (All.) DC.; and in 1868 Rohrbach in his *Monographie der Gattung Silene* pointed out that our plant belongs to this variety. The bibliography is as follows:

S. ACAULIS L., var. *EXSCAPA* (All.) DC. Fl. Fr. iv. 749 (1805). *S. exscapa* All. Fl. Pedem. ii. 83, t. 79, fig. 2 (1785); Jordan, Obs. Fl. Pl. Fr. v. 36, t. 1, fig. C (1847). *S. acaulis*, δ . *parviflora* Otth. in DC. Prodr. i. 367 (1824). *S. polytrichoides* Zumaglini, Fl. Pedem. ii. 269 (1860). *S. acaulis*, *lusus* 2, Rohrb. Gatt. Silen. 144 (1868).

The calyx of var. *exscapa*, as it occurs in northern regions of America, south to New Hampshire and Montana, is 4–6 mm. long and the barely exerted capsule is ovoid. In the Rocky Mountains, from Wyoming to New Mexico and Arizona, however, there occurs another variety with the slender tubular calyx 7–11 mm. long, as in typical *S. acaulis* of Europe, but with the cylindric capsule only slightly if at all exerted. This is

S. acaulis, var. ***subacaulescens*** (F. N. Williams), n. comb. *S. acaulis*, forma *subacaulescens* F. N. Williams, Journ. Linn. Soc. xxxii. 101 (1896).

In defining this variety as a form, Williams merely said: “*subacaulescens*, foliis anguste linearibus 25–35 mm.,” thus implying that the plant is only a trivial form; but since it has more important characters of its calyx and capsule—the long calyx as in typical *S. acaulis*, the capsule essentially as in var. *exscapa*—and a distinct range it is evident that it is a well-defined geographic variety. Var. *subacaulescens* may be densely cespitose, with leaves only 6 mm. long.—M. L. FERNALD and HAROLD ST. JOHN, Gray Herbarium.

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